

Kidney International: A six-month progress report

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When the International Society of Nephrology chose Nature Publishing Group to be the new publisher of *Kidney International* (KI) beginning in January 2006, one of the first changes we made was to revitalize the KI web site. KI on the web now includes a number of new features: weekly advance online publication of articles, articles available free online to anyone, news highlights, e-mail announcements, web feeds, and articles of interest to you from other *Nature* publications. One of the highlights of our new web site is the weekly posting of new articles. You no longer have to wait for your printed issue in the mail to read the most current nephrology research; simply log on to our web site (<http://www.nature.com/ki/index.html>) every Wednesday for the latest original science.

Readers have noticed these changes; the bustle of activity on our web site during the first six months of the year is testament to its popularity. Every month from January through June our site had more than 230 000 page views — the number of times users viewed a page on the site; more than 82 000 article views — the number of times users viewed an entire article; and more than 45 000 abstract views — the number of times users viewed an article abstract (Table 1).

A closer look at the articles you have been reading on our web site reveals even more about your reading habits. The five most commonly accessed article abstracts and articles down-

loaded in PDF format have all been Review and Mini Review articles — articles that discuss a topic of general interest to the nephrology community and present the latest findings in that area (Table 2). While it's known that Review articles are among the most commonly read in medical and scientific journals, it is new for KI to see this degree of interest in our Reviews.

Among the most popular Review articles are those on hypertension, BK virus nephritis after renal transplantation, and vitamin D in chronic kidney disease. The most popular Mini Review articles are those on renal fibrosis, IgA nephropathy, and payment for donor kidneys (Table 2). Not only did a controversial article on the sale of kidneys for transplantation prove to be among the most read articles on our web site, but it also spurred more than a dozen opinionated letters to the editor from readers. What's more, the article received press coverage by BBC News and National Public Radio, among a number of news organizations, and health and news web sites. When interviewed for the BBC article, authors Eli and Amy Friedman made their case for the legalization of donor kidney sales. We love to see that you and the public at large are thinking about these important clinical issues and sharing your thoughts about them with the nephrology community.

One would think that the longer an article is available, the more reader interest it accumulates. But, as you can see by the issue dates of the articles listed in Table 2, the articles that have been posted on our site the longest are not

Table 1 | Number of views on the KI web site in 2006

Month	Article views	Abstract views	Web page views	eTOC registrants (cumulative total)
June	85 405	57 439	244 218	2475
May	97 797	63 994	271 739	2049
April	78 973	50 478	230 198	1989
March	83 255	45 555	244 143	1916
February	78 675	38 016	237 490	1231
January	69 159	15 597	175 490	823
Total	493 264	271 079	1 403 278	—
Average	82 211	45 180	233 880	NA

eTOC, Electronic Table of Contents.

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Table 2 | Most-viewed abstracts and PDF files on the *KI* web site in 2006

Article title (Abstracts)	Article type	Issue	Article views
Renal fibrosis: New insights into the pathogenesis of therapeutics	Mini Review	Jan. 15	1890
Hypertension in renal parenchymal disease: Why is it so resistant to treatment?	Review	March 15	1414
BK virus nephritis after renal transplantation	Review	Feb. 15	1361
Payment for donor kidneys: Pros and cons	Mini Review	March 15	1271
The IgA nephropathy treatment dilemma	Mini Review	June 1	1132
Glomerular filtration rate estimated by cystatin C among different clinical presentations	Original Article	Jan. 15	1115
Leptin and inflammation-associated cachexia in chronic kidney disease	Mini Review	March 1	1105
New insights into mineral and skeletal regulation by active forms of vitamin D	Mini Review	Jan. 15	1040
The future of hemodialysis membranes	Mini Review	April 1	1021
The podocyte's response to injury: Role in proteinuria and glomerulosclerosis	Review	June 15	1016
Article title (PDF files)	Article type	Issue	Article views
Renal fibrosis: New insights into the pathogenesis and therapeutics	Mini Review	Jan. 15	2206
Vitamin D in chronic kidney disease: A systemic role for selective vitamin D receptor activation	Review	Jan. 1	1740
Hypertension in renal parenchymal disease: Why is it so resistant to treatment?	Review	March 15	1487
BK virus nephritis after renal transplantation	Review	Feb. 15	1370
The IgA nephropathy treatment dilemma	Mini Review	June 1	1245
Treatment of IgA nephropathy	Mini Review	June 1	1243
'Hypertension' and 'microalbuminuria': The bell tolls for thee	Mini Review	Jan. 1	1205
Treatment of hepatitis C-virus-related glomerulonephritis	Mini Review	Feb. 1	1179
Renal albumin absorption in physiology and pathology	Review	Feb. 1	1170
New insights into mineral and skeletal regulation by active forms of vitamin D	Mini Review	Jan. 15	1161

necessarily the most popular. This goes to show that you are reading articles on the basis of what interests you rather than what's been available the longest.

Another interesting item is the number of people who signed up to receive our Table of Contents electronically (eTOC). As of June, 2475 web readers had signed up (Table 1). That is a good beginning, certainly. But the tens of thousands of you who log on to our site and spend time browsing our web pages and articles should take advantage of this free service: just click on "Sign up for e-alerts" on the right-hand side of our home page to receive free access to searchable abstracts, customized e-mail alerts, and web-only content from *KI* and other *Nature* academic journals, provided at no cost to you.

Our new team of editors (see masthead), who began to oversee the peer-review process in January, made several changes in our submission process. The first of these has been a policy of responding quickly to authors whose papers may not be right for *KI* and hence will not be sent out for review. We now try to get back to these authors within one week — a turnaround time that many authors have told us is appreciated; there is nothing worse than waiting for weeks or months on end only to be told you should submit your paper elsewhere.

With our increase from publishing monthly to twice a month, we are also striving to expe-

dite the peer-review process — in other words, we are making decisions on papers sooner than in the past. This is seen in the time from submission of original research articles to their acceptance: we are now completing peer reviews 16 working days (about three weeks) after receiving papers from the authors. This is a vast improvement over the 65 working days (about three months) it took to peer-review papers in 2005 (Table 3). However, many of the original papers we published in the first four months of 2006 were actually accepted by the previous editorial board. Hence, at present it is premature to calculate the time it takes for an article to be published after it is accepted. It previously took about four-and-a-half months; we hope to improve on that number by the end of the year.

Table 3 | Time from submission to final decision, 2006 versus 2005

Month (2006)	Working days to final decision
June	19
May	15
April	14
March	14
February	14
January	22
Average 2006	16
Average 2005	65

We are also seeing more submissions of original research articles than ever before — *KI* received 1510 submissions from July 2005 to June 2006, compared with 1286 submissions the previous year, July 2004 to June 2005.

Thank you, readers, for inspiring us to meet your demands for more readily available and

engaging content. We've risen to the occasion, as witnessed by the myriad changes made to *KI* over the past six months; in return, you have shown your appreciation by submitting more articles to us, signing up for our eTOC and reading more of our articles online than ever before.